

AN ORDINANCE BY
COUNCILMEMBER CLAIR MULLER

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99-1625

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT A FULL SCALE
RECYCLING PROGRAM WITHIN THE PUBLIC
BUILDINGS AND PARKS OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA -
CITY HALL AND CITY HALL EAST; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta began a program for residential curbside recycling in 1993 for newspaper, glass, aluminum & steel cans, and #1 & #2 plastics and contracted the hauling with BFI-DreamSan; and

WHEREAS, the program has been very successful and many residents of multi-family facilities have asked to be included in the program and the city will soon begin a pilot program for multi-family buildings pursuant to 98-R-0295; and

WHEREAS, the City's hauler for recycled materials also picks up mixed paper--magazines, office paper, junk mail, composition books, cardboard and corrugated cardboard at several sites in Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta began a program for curbside residential composting in 1996 after the State of Georgia mandated that no yard trimmings would be allowed in government owned landfills and the City of Atlanta committed to do the separate hauling for this program, but contracted with Greencycle to process the compost; and

WHEREAS, the City's composting program was amended in 1996 to require that residents put the yard trimmings into paper bags for pick-up or employ a container owned by the household that could be emptied by the haulers or begin at-home composting; and

WHEREAS, every municipality in Georgia is required to submit to the Environmental Protection Division a 10-year plan for the disposal of **solid** waste and the City of Atlanta submitted a plan in 1995 which included a disposal contract with a private landfill operator; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta is in the process of closing all of its publicly owned landfills because they are at capacity; and

WHEREAS, the private landfill operator with which the city contracts currently charges a tipping fee of \$18.83 per ton and may soon be at capacity at the landfill in the city; and

WHEREAS, the City's contractor for hauling recycled materials has executed their contract for residents on a regular basis and the contract has been renewed three (3) times; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works for the City of Atlanta has not picked up the yard **trimmings** on a regular basis and perhaps a contract for hauling of composting should be considered; and

WHEREAS, in Atlanta's public buildings, our recycling program has not been exemplary. Bottle and can recycling in vending machine room was discontinued in 1997 and office paper recycling may be "contaminated" with regular garbage; and

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Parks and Recreation needs a program for composting and reuse of composted materials; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta should set the example for all residents in recycling and composting because both programs extend the life of landfills and decrease the amount of money the City must pay in tipping fees.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA that the City of Atlanta Department of Public Works revamp its solid waste program for citizens and begin a comprehensive program of recycling and composting in city buildings and parks.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the City of Atlanta implement the following elements in its solid waste program:

- 1) Composting program for all city parks, and
- 2) Tire shredding enterprise for empowerment zones. Enterprise to sell shredded tires back to the City for use in parks and under playground equipment, and
- 3) Program with non-profit organization to shelter household goods from landlords who evict and keep good for 30 days with the stipulation that if owners **do** not claim goods, the non-profit organization retains for sale the goods, and
- 4) City program to require appointment and payment for pick-up of all goods beyond five (5) recycled goods, compostable yard organic materials or regular garbage for landfill — **such as** furniture and white goods (old refrigerators and stoves)
- 5) City program to require **all** hazardous materials — dead batteries, unused paint, household chemicals and cleaning supplies — be dropped **off** at several sites bi-annually sponsored by the Keep Atlanta Beautiful, Inc.